

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 13905

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNSC, JA, US

SUBJECT: US-JAPAN PRE-UNGA CONSULTATIONS: JAPAN'S BID
FOR SECURITY COUNCIL SEAT AND CHARTER REVIEW

1. DURING US-JAPAN PRE-UNGA CONSULTATIONS ON AUGUST 1, UN BUREAU DIRGEN OKAWA EMPHASIZED THAT JAPAN WAS CONTINUING TO PRESS ITS SC CANDIDACY. GOJ HAD DISCUSSED WITH BANGLADESH POSSIBILITY OF ITS WITHDRAWING FROM RACE, BUT SAW LITTLE LIKELIHOOD OF THIS HAPPENING. OKAWA DOUBTED THAT ASIAN GROUP WOULD BE ABLE TO AGREE ON EITHER BD OR JAPAN AS A CANDIDATE, WHICH WOULD THEN THROW THE VOTE INTO THE UNGA. HE ESTIMATED THAT JAPAN NOW HAD 25 FIRM VOTES AND 37-38 LIKELY VOTES FOR TOTAL CONSIDERABLY SHORT OF NECESSARY TWO-THIRDS. USUN POLMIN PETREE OBSERVED THAT WHEN PRESENTED WITH CHOICE, GA OFTEN DECIDED IN FAVOR OF COUNTRY BEST ABLE TO CONTRIBUTE TO WORK OF THE SC, I.E., IN THIS CASE JAPAN. HE CITED EXAMPLE OF NIGERIA'S SUCCESSFUL CANDIDACY LAST YEAR WHEN IT WAS IN COMPETITION WITH NIGER.

2. OKAWA DESCRIBED ARGUMENTS JAPANESE WERE USING IN SC CAMPAIGN, INCLUDING, INTER ALIA, THAT JAPAN WAS BETTER
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EQUIPPED IN TERMS OF DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION WORLDWIDE TO PLAY MAJOR SC ROLE, THAT SOUTH ASIANS HAD MONOPOLIZED ASIAN SEAT ON SC IN RECENT YEARS, AND THAT WHILE JAPAN HAD BEEN ON COUNCIL SEVERAL TIMES IT WAS HARDLY UNIQUE IN THAT REGARD. MAYNES AND PETREE OFFERED VARIOUS THOUGHTS AS TO HOW GOJ ARGUMENTATION COULD BE MOST EFFECTIVELY FOCUSED.

3. IN REPLY TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY MAYNES QUESTION ON

JAPANESE OBJECTIVES IN CHARTER REVIEW, APART FROM ENLARGEMENT OF SC AND REMOVAL OF FORMER ENEMY CLAUSES, OKAWA SAID JAPAN WAS INTERESTED IN STRENGTHENING PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS, ALTERING THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL AND STRENGTHENING THE COORDINATION ROLE OF ECOSOC. JAPANESE INTEREST IN ACHIEVING PERMANENT SC SEAT WAS NOT BEING CONSIDERED WITHIN GENERAL CONTEXT OF CHARTER REVIEW. MAYNES DISCUSSED U.S. THINKING CONCERNING WAYS TO IMPROVE SC PERFORMANCE, SUCH AS POSSIBILITY OF MORE INFORMAL, CLOSED SESSIONS. MANSFIELD

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